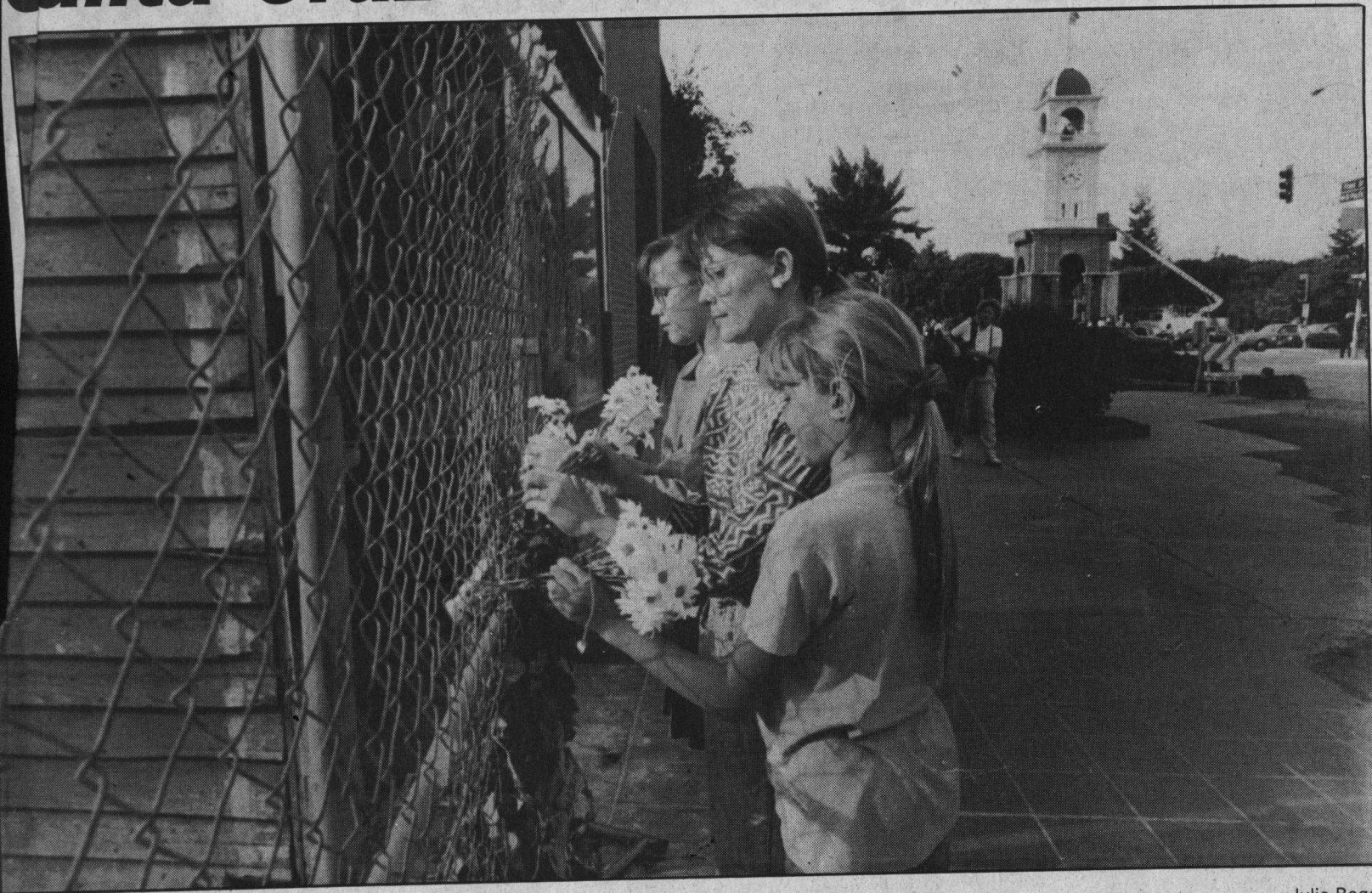


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# Santa Cruz meets near the mall



Julie Rogers

Dawn Atkins, front, and her friends placed flowers at the former site of the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Co.

## The Town Clock chimes at 5:04

By BOB SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

When the Town Clock struck 5:04 p.m. yesterday, more than a thousand people had gathered at the top of the Pacific Garden Mall in Santa Cruz to remember what had happened there a year ago.

As the time was announced by Downtown Association spokesman Bruce Bratton, the crowd fell silent except for a few muffled sobs, punctuated by the sound of passing traffic and the steady chiming of the clock bells.

They were echoed in the distance by church bells, a reminder of the violence visited on the mall Oct. 17, when the earthquake hit and three people died in the rubble of the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Co. and Ford's Department Store.

The crowd was a composite of Santa Cruz — the homeless, business executives in three-piece suits, young couples, families with babes in arms and one woman dressed as a "dead bride," who circulated through the crowd passing out flyers for a local costume shop.

It took nearly two minutes before the bells finished sounding in Santa Cruz.

"This has been a terribly hard day for everyone," said Santa Cruz Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt. "But let's look to the future."

There were also thoughts of what had been, what had happened a year ago.

Colleen Cosby, co-owner of the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Co., where two employees — Robin Ortiz, 22, and Shawn McCormick, 21 — died in the rubble of the collapsed building, asked that the two young people be remembered for what they had brought into the world and given their friends and acquaintances.

"There is much we can do here," she told the crowd, pleading for a better, safer community. "In fact, we owe it to them. Let the light of our experiences be our beginning. The future is now."

Catherine Treiman, 75, of Scotts Valley, was the third Mall fatality. She died in Ford's Department Store.

Wormhoudt, who along with her husband was publicly honored by UC-Santa Cruz professor Jim Pepper for her role during the earthquake and the year-long healing process, told the crowd that the last few days have resurrected terrible memories for many of the

quake survivors.

"It has been so difficult to see all the press again," she said, referring to the earthquake coverage in the local papers as well as the television footage.

"It is so vivid for all of us. It brings it all back. You can almost smell the acrid plaster dust and feel the grit on your shoes."

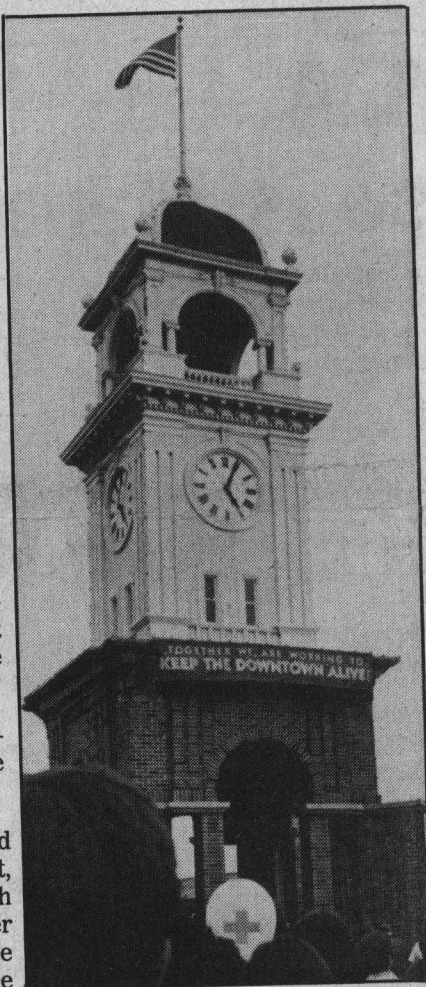
But along with the hurt, the terror, the loss, Wormhoudt said, "it is important to remember the good memories of those who died."

"Remember the downtown in the same way," she said. "Remember it with affection. Think about not only what we had, but how we can improve on it in the future."

Wormhoudt was lauded by Pepper for her leadership role in the post-quake period.

"Those 15 seconds produced dramatic changes in our town. Yet, it was your courage and strength that has sustained us all," Pepper told Wormhoudt. "You have made enough difficult decisions in one year to last a public official for a lifetime."

The service closed with folk-singer Mary McCaslin leading the crowd in "This Land Is Our Land."



Julie Rogers

The Town Clock bell pealed for two minutes in remembrance.